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# THE ULTIMATE 2

ISSUE

# 5

THE PASSION PLAY



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When faced with Nazi Germany's military advances, the U.S. government decided that the best weapon against them was a person, not a bomb. With this in mind, Steve Rogers volunteered for a covert military experiment that turned him into Captain America. After a few years of exemplary service, Captain America fell in battle—his body wasn't recovered.

Years passed and Captain America was found frozen in suspended animation. When he awoke, he was convinced to join Iron Man, The Wasp, Giant Man, Black Widow, Hawkeye, and Thor in forming the superhuman defense initiative run by Nick Fury, called The Ultimates.

## PREVIOUSLY IN THE ULTIMATES:

The Ultimates have had two decisive battles since Nick Fury brought them together. The first was when they saved New York City from the rampaging monster known as the Hulk. After someone leaked the information that the Hulk is really Bruce Banner (a scientist who was working on the superhuman defense initiative), Banner was put on trial and seemingly executed for the people he killed on his rampage.

The second battle The Ultimates won was against an army of shape-shifting aliens bent on destroying the world and killing all humankind. These two victories made The Ultimates the biggest celebrities the world has ever known, but their image has been tarnished by the revelations of their involvement with Banner.

When the Ultimates learn Thor is actually a genetic world-be super-soldier, they pursue him to Norway where the confrontation turns violent.

# THE PASSION



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# THE ULTIMATES

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PENCILS

INKS

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CAPTAIN AMERICA CREATED BY JOE SIMON AND JACK KIRBY

Ultimates 2 (ISSN #1529-9443) No. 5, June 2005. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in February by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 101 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10018. APPLICATION TO MAIL PERIODICAL POSTAGE RATES IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2005 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032823) in the direct market and \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032823) through the newsstand. Canadian Agreement #426665. Return to: MARVEL, Subscription Dept. (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues, U.S. \$27.00; Canada \$37.00; Europe \$39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO ULTIMATES 2, C/O MARVEL, SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 32 NEWBURN, NY 12551. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (845) 586-7828. [subscriptions@marvel.com](mailto:subscriptions@marvel.com). AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer; ALAN FINE, President & CEO of Toy Biz and Marvel Publishing; DANN GABRI, Director of Production; ELAINE GALLINGER, Director of Manufacturing; DAVID BOGART, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Mamone, Advertising Director, at [jmamone@marvel.com](mailto:jmamone@marvel.com) or 212-576-5334. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

Norway:

Eagle-one, this is sparrow-hawk:  
we got the freaks a mile from ground  
zero and transport is good  
to go.

You are  
clear to  
attack, sir.  
Over.

What's the  
matter with  
you guys? In  
the trucks!

Not a chance. You  
really think we're  
gonna just walk  
away and leave  
him?

This is a superhuman situation, stupid.  
You hang around here, one of those things  
is gonna fly straight through you.

Doesn't matter.  
That's our leader  
and some of us came  
halfway around the  
world to hear what  
he had to say. We're  
not gonna turn our  
backs on him now.

The hell are  
you gonna do  
for him?

I dunno. Pray,  
I guess--

Just let him  
know that some of  
us still believe  
in him.





Get his belt! That's the source of his powers! Get his belt and he won't be able to whip up the storms!



Captain America and Hawkeye are going to get crucified out there, General.



You think?

As long as he's wearing that *belt* we designed, Thor's the most powerful superhuman on the face of the Earth...



"We should have used *our* people first. I'm telling you..."



Wait...



Something else is moving towards them... Five or six hundred miles an hour and getting faster and faster...

It's Quicksilver.

Tell him to go for the belt. That's our number one priority. Without the belt, Thor's completely powerless.



WASPI  
NOW!  
GO FOR  
IT!



Hold him *tight*,  
boys! I'm going  
in!



A brain-  
freeze worked when  
we took down the Hulk.  
No reason it shouldn't  
do the same again.



UNGH!



THORI  
STOP!  
DON'T  
SWALLOW!  
DON'T  
SWALLOW!



Pietro?  
Oh my  
God...



There's  
a reality out there  
where you're a baby seal  
getting clubbed by a million  
Eskimos, Thor. I'm going to  
find it and bring it here.



I've heard it all before, Thor, and it's really getting old. You're a paranoid schizophrenic. You need psychiatric help.

Can't you see what they're... doing here, Tony? They're trying to silence... the conscience of the team...





Tony, *please*. You have to understand... Fury's information was just Loki screwing with reality. None of that stuff is *real*...



I'm sorry, Thor. I just don't believe you.



Then I'm sorry too...



UNGH!



GET AWAY FROM HIM!



Natasha needs backup!  
Go! Keep him off balance!  
We can't give him a chance  
to summon up the  
lightning!



Natasha this  
violent back  
home, Tony?

Only when I  
ask her nicely.



Hiddle  
scum!



You know what I hate about you people? You know what drives me up the wall? You grow up here with **everything** and then you bite the hand that **feeds** you!



You and your filthy friends back there! Who do you think pays for all those welfare checks you people draw?



You can afford it.

UNNH!



The baby! What have you done to my baby?



What?

I was three months pregnant, you idiot. Tony and I hadn't told anybody yet, but...



Oh, God. It hurts so much.

What have you done to me, Thor?



Natasha, I'm sorry. I just...



Sucker.





Tony, we got a storm brewing out there, man.



He's almost out, Nick. Another second and he'll be...

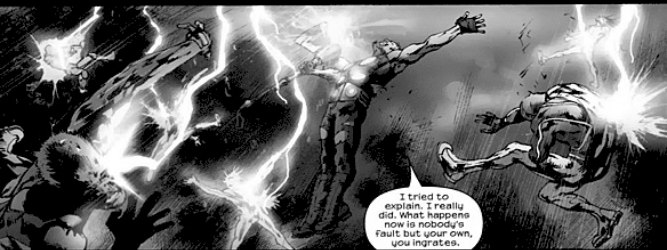


**TRAITORS!**



How dare you lay a hand on me!











I came here  
to save the world  
and all you've done  
is try to crucify  
me.

He's going to *kill* us.  
We're *too late*. He's  
completely *super-*  
*ionized* up there.  
*Nobody* can stop  
him now.



Pietro? Pietro,  
please...



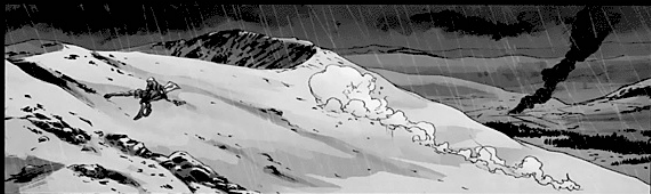
You're the only  
one who can *do*  
this, darling. The  
only one fast  
enough to snatch  
that wretched  
belt of his...



I *can't*, Wanda.  
I can't even  
*stand up*  
anymore.











## The Triskelion:



Oh, what's the *matter*, Thor? You're not *angry* with me, are you?

You know there's no *malice* in what I've done here. This is all just part of the *game*, right? This is what we *always* do.





How did you get in here? I told them I didn't want any visitors.

You really think I asked *permission*? You really think I had to use a *door*?

My dear brother, I can step anywhere in this little three-dimensional realm you're so fond of as easily as *you* can take a *walk* in a *park*.



My father sent me here to *save* this world, Loki. This isn't a *game* we're playing.

This is a matter of life and death and you've already had poor **Banner** killed with your pranks.

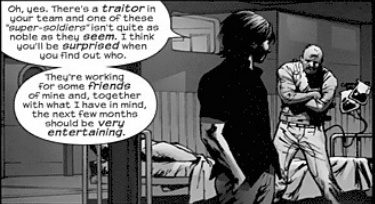


Ah, but that wasn't me. I *knew* I'd get the blame for that, but I really had absolutely nothing to *do* with outing Banner to the press.

Between you and me, you have a *WOLF* in the fold, Thor.



What?



Oh, yes. There's a *traitor* in your team and one of these "super-soldiers" isn't quite as noble as they *seem*. I think you'll be *surprised* when you find out who.

They're working for some *friends* of mine and, together with what I have in mind, the next few months should be *very* *entertaining*.



Security!

SECURITY!

Ha ha ha  
ha ha...





Hey, Tony. How's it going, man? Sorry to get you out in the middle of the night, but we got ourselves a little situation here.

How's your neck, by the way?

A little stiff down the left side, but the medics gave me some pretty decent painkillers.

That's cool. That's cool. How you feeling about this whole Thor thing now? The Norwegian trip was tough on *everybody*, but I know you guys were *especially* tight.

You okay with the way things panned out?

God, I don't think anybody was okay with it, but what else could we do? The guy was delusional. We had to stop him before he hurt *himself* more than anything else.

You did *good*, Tony. Made more of an impact than *me and Hawkeye* did anyway.

C'mon, I got a *bow and arrow*, man. We'd all have been great back there if somebody had given us a little *Iron Man suit*.

What's going on, Nick? What's all this about?

Problems, man. *Big* problems...



Something's  
come up in the  
*Middle East.*

**TO BE CONTINUED...**



# TEAM-DCP

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